

Task Force on Emergency Preparedness
Thursday, June 7, 2018, 6:30 p.m. - 8:15 p.m.
Barlow Trail Room

Welcome, Introductions, and Agenda Review

Common goal: protection of families when issues occur; anything can happen at any time.

Web search: Gresham's recent issues: historically, the area for Gresham is 185% greater likelihood of earthquakes than the rest of the country, Mult. Co disasters = 7 natural disasters, 6 of which considered presidential disasters (categorized: 4 floods, 3 winter storms, 2 mudslides, 2 storms, 1 heavy rain, 1 hurricane, 1 snow, 1 wind).

Gresham is relatively protected. Still vulnerable. Macro and personal level, e.g. underemployment.

More Goals: bring community together and discuss what are we currently doing, what could we do more of, what we can inform the public about.

"We are blessed here in this area" (temperate weather, moderate risks...).

Around the Room Introductions:

Michael Gonzales, Councilor Kirk French, Willie Chambers, Brent Orn, Matt Callison, Carol Rulla, Vernon Poe, Tammy Johnson, Dean Derek, Germain Flentrey, Linda Parashos, Kate (Multnomah County Health Dept.), Terri Stetzer, Councilor Janine Gladfelter, Councilor Jerry Hinton, Colleen Mathew, Kelle Landavazo, Jim Masog, Division Chief Scott Lewis.

Interview opportunity took place with a handful of participants; "a neat group here today".

"Thank you to the commitment to helping lives in this room."

Kelle and Housekeeping Matters

Overview and Purpose:

Encourage community openness amidst diverse communication methods, building capability and capacity within the community, build concrete methods.

Others' goals? "This is a [collective] work group".

"This is a public meeting; held to certain laws...minutes will be created, votes in the [Roberts rules] way..."

We will be electing a chair and vice chair; chair will run the meeting, vice chair can fill in for that chair: who is interested?

- *Dean Derek volunteered to be chair, motion seconded, all in room stated agreement: “Aye”*
- *Vernon Poe volunteered to be vice chair, seconded, all agreed: “Aye”*

No one opposed these two members.

Nancy Seebert (task force member) is willing to be chair.

We are all here to help the chair and vice chair.

Establishing Meeting Schedule

Wednesdays, frequency undetermined yet, perhaps 2x a month, collective decision. No second Wednesdays of the month (preference of CVIP Linda Parashos). Any time conflicts? No Friday nights, no Mondays.

- 6:30pm, June 27th as the reconvene
- Frequency: twice per month
- July dates: 6:30pm on July 11th and July 25th
- Every two weeks thereafter
- Gresham City Hall
- August dates: August 15th and August 29th
- Reevaluate at end of August

Presentation Overview

- Changes
- Current Strategy and Goal

We're always looking for ways to do things better.

Council Work Plan Highlights:

Great job, very prophetic, this task force is part of the Council Work Plan, and what we decide here will be brought to council. Our number one responsibility is safety of civilians. Resources: emergency resource individuals who are available/on call to help! The Work Plan is a great tool, holds us accountable; this is our 3rd year of having items in the Work Plan.

Creating a Community Preparedness Task Force: done!

Partnership with Home Forward

Increase NA Involvement

Michael Gonzales will speak more to this at the next meeting (June 27th).

“[We have to go to other organizations and people to collaborate, learn, and inform, and make things even better]”

Linda Parashos and her org = a conduit, wealth of info for us
School districts = same

Partnering with schools has not been often done by us, but it is a valuable goal.

Goals:

1. Provide continuous, relevant messaging
 - a. This must be eternal; let's be more resilient; continuing relevancy
2. Increase community participation in neighborhood safety
3. Focus on underrepresented communities
 - a. Exponentially more impacted in times of disaster

Goal 1: Strategies:

- Small, simple steps, not overwhelming (not a good example: 200 page FEMA workbook)
- Increase use of visual content and preparedness apps, (e.g. First Aid American Cross app)
- Reinforce knowing your neighbors; they may be your lifeline!
 - “Cornerstone of resilience;” social connectivity, capital fosters efficient recovery after disaster
 - Variety of ways this manifests in communities
- Integrate preparedness messaging with other City-wide efforts
 - “up in everybody’s business”
 - Weaving our Task Force’s efforts into other City-wide efforts, (e.g. Sustainability departments, Great Business)

Goal 2: Increase Community participation in safety

- Incorporate best practices from other jurisdictions and research data
- Maximize access to tools (e.g. Neighborhood Ready and Nextdoor)
- Build capacity does neighborhood association leadership in support of neighborhood safety

Goal 3: Focus on underrepresented communities

- Partner with agencies that serve our communities in need
- Leverage existing opportunities to connect
- Engage communities in culturally appropriate ways
 - Sometimes we wrongly assume what’s needed; we need to do a better job of communicating
 - *Seeking to understand*
 - *Two-way conversation with focus on the communities’ response to our questions!*

Good of the Order ---- Let's Brainstorm!

Best path forward to ensure task force goals are met
and
Topics of interest for future meetings

****We can collectively decide what's important to us and what we want to achieve.****

Federal, state, county, city has their means of doing safety. But there's a ton of gaps.

**Categories (per Jerry Hinton, Linda Parashos): Personal levels of preparedness:
neighborhood, city levels, regional levels of preparedness**

Linda: incorporating Educational paradigms is DIFFICULT.

Terri: It would be helpful to know the ethnicities within Gresham.

Current Statistics:

Race in Gresham:

- 70 languages
- White: 68%
- Hispanic 18%
- Black 5%
- Two or more races: 4%
- Asian: 4%
- American Indian: 1%
- Pacific Islander: <0.5%

Cultures/Nationalities:

- WIC
- Low water communities
- Other populations needing more assistance
- Of the ~115,000 Gresham residents: 18,000 are foreign-born from Latin America, Europe, and Asia
- Many more variations of culture among us

Let's weave that into some of the work of ONCE/Michael G -Landavazo

*The further you move from personal levels, the more it is educational realms/information –
Hinton*

Vernon Poe's comment: RISK—Is there a specific risk analysis done for the City of Gresham, and if so, can we have access to that to work off?

Answer: Yes. Tons of info.

- The group would like this risk analysis information via presentation, and notes can be extrapolated individually or via meeting minutes, i.e., a meeting's first 30 min = presentation, and the remaining time could be a work session

For next meeting, Dean Derek recommends: personal > family > community > county, etc. Therefore, let's all think about this micro to macro level of preparedness; as we consider costs and different areas' methods

Kelle's response: Sometimes we fall into focusing on the materials/the "stuff," however, it's much more important to ask WHAT ARE WE GOING to do when struggle strikes? E.g. how will I feed my family tomorrow? How will I have stable housing? Creating offense by spreading the "stuff" message. Let's incorporate the whole community, there's a spectrum of people. Some very interested, some indifferent, some who will have needs and how to reach them without losing people by just giving one message, e.g. "Have 1 week of supplies."

Dean's question: Resource/Contact List with Emergency Preparedness?

Answer: Yes. Also, we can look at other jurisdictions and see what's out there. A partial refute by Councilor Hinton to Kelle's comment: message still needs to be sent out, and it may be offensive? I'm not sure.

Willie Chambers paraphrasing Kelle's comment: Let's not have that be the central focus; "[Some are Costco customers, some barely have cans in their pantry]" There needs to be a national understanding for some of us; it's not a necessity for everyone. For others, there needs to be a regional understanding, and so forth, moving from macro to micro levels...

"It's very personal to all of us; the information needs to be there. Whether you accept it or not, that's like every other parallel in life" –Councilor Hinton

Willie: "There needs to be communities with an understanding, members who understand *this is my community, and we need a plan*. [Even on a regional level]." Willie's interest and focus: Food.

Another form of categorization: Food, shelter, power, etc.

- Mass Care Shelter Plans are in place
- RDPO: Regional Disaster Preparedness Organization

We must adjust our outreach and messaging depending on the audience/community. –Kelle

*Prep the fields before harvesting.
Can't launch without the buy-in.*

Terri: we should discuss: breathing issues due to smoke and working on air purifiers; task force to look at what are issues like this we need to be aware of, so we can get grants for purifiers and the like; another example evacuation procedures for people (or even livestock).

The recent fires have been a catalyst for more conversation regarding Emergency Preparedness.

- A presentation on resources available and requesting these resources could be very helpful

Vernon: **Pamphlet** is helpful

Kelle: Yes, let's put all those types of resources forward

Dean Derek: building proactivity in the community; moving away from REACTIVE to PROACTIVE

Chief Scott Lewis: as we go into social networks and who we communicate with, the conversations are different. Regarding costs, needs, what's going to be on the table to eat. Message changes depending on who is with you in the room at the time; Costco garage comment; Gresham has varied geographic regions in terms of opportunity and resources. Message can change from neighborhood to neighborhood and even house to house sometimes. There is room for offense to be taken.

Councilor French (added to Vernon's comment about accessing information on risk analysis): "The focus is to make a plan." People don't always want to talk about the issues at hand.

Councilor Hinton: "There's even a plan at times for the neediest families;" what can we do to provide help to families who need it the most.

Germaine: Logistics and varied interest in things like Nextdoor; Levels were listed during the wildfires, but people still didn't know what the levels were! Task Force's responsibility to publish the logistics.

Neighborhood captains to relay info or to rally, going to Mt. Hood Community College.

Germaine: concern is for the black community in Gresham; there aren't committees/organizations/associations for the black community.

Councilor Hinton: Communicating to black communities in a different, more effective way for the needs of the black community.

Churches ~ provide tight knit communal activities/resources for the Russian community.

Dean Derek: What's the in-road for each ethnic group in emergency preparedness?

Common denominators in figuring this out? Let's configure this through this Task Force.

Gresham is largely secular; there needs to be other avenues besides churches to foster proactivity.

Dean Derek: Art/website?

CoG is not a Google Docs organization. We do have a Task Force webpage on the City's website, this has items such as agenda, presentations, and we can post other documents there depending on what's needed; also state/city legislations filter what can be presented on the webpage.

Other DATA: New Hazards data recently published

How can we take that data and make it digestible?

Councilor Gladfelter: Comprehension matters; we have an opportunity to bring light to the community.

Water drive: sold about 350 water jugs. Goal was about 900. Time constraint prove difficult for some. Another water drive coming up.

CoG was one of 3 municipalities that helped the recent issue in Salem, by bringing the water distribution truck to help with Salem's water contamination.

Germaine and Jerry: The more vulnerable the group, the more it must step back to configure logistics and practical, solid, strategic plans; need to prioritize needs amidst disaster (e.g. eating and having water versus paying rent versus physical safety).

What are our capabilities in this Task Force: How do we employ those in this setting/among the community?

Categories mentioned can shift around: *let's put our arms around everybody in the community* - Councilor Hinton

Another idea: expanding/creating community points of distribution during disasters.

Next Meeting: ONCE Presentation by Michael Gonzales (Office of Neighborhoods and Community Engagement): June 27, 2018, 6:30pm, Gresham City Hall

We have some great topics to bring forward and develop moving forward!

Dean Derek's request: Can we write down general areas of concern (e.g. food, water, cultural needs) and bring them to the next meeting; We can plan to educate and build up these areas.
Building focus and practical resolve

Thanks! Meeting adjourned!